AN ACT
relating to the establishment of a workgroup to study and make
recommendations on the integration of health and behavioral health
services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) The executive commissioner of the Health and
Human Services Commission shall establish a workgroup to recommend
best practices in policy, training, and service delivery to promote
the integration of health and behavioral health services in this
state.

(b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
Services Commission shall appoint members to serve on the
workgroup. The workgroup must include:

(1) at least one representative of the Department of
State Health Services;

(2) at least one representative of the Department of
Aging and Disability Services;

(3) at least one representative of the Department of
Family and Protective Services;

(4) at least one representative of the Health and
Human Services Commission;

(5) a representative of the Texas Department of
Insurance;

(6) a representative of a state organization that
represents community mental health and mental retardation centers;
(7) a representative of a state organization that represents federally qualified health centers;
(8) a representative of a state organization that represents substance abuse providers;
(9) at least one representative of state associations that represent medical and behavioral health professionals;
(10) at least one representative of a statewide organization that promotes mental health and prevention of mental disorders and advocates and educates to improve the care and treatment of persons with mental illness;
(11) at least one consumer member of an organization that represents consumers of mental health services;
(12) at least one representative of an organization that represents family members of consumers of mental health services;
(13) a representative of a mental health philanthropy that is an administrative unit of a public institution of higher education in this state and that agrees to provide administrative support to the workgroup; and
(14) additional members who are recognized experts in integrated health care in the state, who have direct experience with the provision of integrated health care, or who represent the interests of consumers, communities, family members, advocates, business leaders, medical and behavioral health providers, and insurers.
   (c) The workgroup shall study and make recommendations on
the integration of health and behavioral health services in this state. The workgroup may request any information it needs from state agencies, and the state agencies shall comply with the request.

(d) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall:

(1) not later than October 1, 2009, establish the workgroup as required under Subsection (a) of this section; and

(2) not later than August 1, 2010, file with the appropriate committees of the senate and the house of representatives a report that describes the best practices for health and behavioral health integration, barriers to implementing the best practices in this state, and policy considerations for improving integrated service delivery to the citizens of this state.

(e) This section expires and the workgroup created under this section is abolished on August 31, 2010.

SECTION 2. Subtitle E, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 115 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 115. TASK FORCE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Sec. 115.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Children with special needs" means children younger than 22 years of age diagnosed with a chronic illness, intellectual or other developmental disability, or serious mental illness.

(2) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services Commission.
(3) "Executive commissioner" means the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

(4) "Task force" means the Interagency Task Force for Children with Special Needs established under this chapter.

Sec. 115.002. TASK FORCE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. The governor, or the governor's designee, shall oversee the task force created and administered by the commission to improve the coordination, quality, and efficiency of services for children with special needs.

Sec. 115.003. DUTIES. The task force shall:

(1) not later than September 1, 2010, coordinate with federal agencies to compile a list of opportunities to increase flexible funding for services for children with special needs, including alternative funding sources and service delivery options;

(2) conduct a review of state agency policies and procedures related to service delivery for children with special needs;

(3) perform a needs assessment, including public hearings to identify service delivery gaps, system entry points, and service obstacles; and

(4) develop a five-year plan to improve the coordination, quality, and efficiency of services for children with special needs under Section 115.004.

Sec. 115.004. TASK FORCE PLAN. (a) In developing the five-year plan under this chapter, the task force shall:

(1) identify the party responsible for each action set

H.B. No. 2196
forth in the plan and set deadlines for implementation of each recommendation;

(2) create benchmarks to measure progress toward goals and objectives;

(3) consult with the Legislative Budget Board to coordinate relevant cost studies and account for long-term savings of short-term child investments;

(4) consult with personnel from other states to identify best practices;

(5) consult with the state demographer and relevant federal agencies to account for future demographic trends;

(6) consult with pediatric specialists and other health care providers to determine best medical practices;

(7) coordinate with mental health and developmental disability advocates; and

(8) develop a timeline for plan implementation.

(b) The plan created under this chapter must provide recommendations to:

(1) maximize the use of federal funds available to this state for the purposes described by Section 115.002;

(2) reduce the number of families who experience crisis due to insufficient and ineffective interventions or services or lack of coordination and planning of interventions or services;

(3) improve families' ability to navigate the system through improved coordination between service providers and increased outreach;
(4) remove barriers to local coordination of services and supports;
(5) evaluate the feasibility of creating an interagency legally authorized representative program to provide support services for children with special needs;
(6) improve early detection and intervention services;
(7) increase the number of community-based options for children with special needs;
(8) improve accountability for each agency represented on the task force and other service providers;
(9) reduce existing fragmentation of service delivery to reflect best practices and eliminate ineffective interventions;
(10) reduce service gaps and overlap;
(11) improve data management;
(12) prevent unnecessary parental relinquishment of custody;
(13) create a core set of quality measures to determine quality of care and improvements to quality of life; and
(14) improve availability of high-quality community-based acute and long-term care services and supports.

Sec. 115.005. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. The governor's office and each agency represented on the task force shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to implement the task force's duties under this chapter.

Sec. 115.006. REPORT. (a) The task force shall submit a biennial report on the progress of each agency represented on the
task force in accomplishing the goals described by Section 115.002
to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
representatives.

(b) The report must include:

(1) stakeholder input, including testimony from
parents in each health and human services district;

(2) progress toward meeting each goal outlined in the
plan under Section 115.004;

(3) current barriers that prevent accomplishing each
goal listed in Subdivision (2);

(4) additional resource needs;

(5) current resources that could be redirected for
more efficient and effective use;

(6) amendments to the plan under this chapter;

(7) recommendations and proposed legislation to help
fulfill the goals of this chapter; and

(8) feasibility statements on related
recommendations.

(c) The task force shall publish the report on the
commission’s website.

Sec. 115.007. COMPOSITION. (a) The task force consists of:

(1) the commissioner, the executive director or
director, or a deputy or assistant commissioner of:

(A) the commission, designated by the executive
commissioner;

(B) the Department of Aging and Disability
Services, designated by the commissioner of that agency;
(C) the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, designated by the commissioner of that agency;

(D) the division of early childhood intervention services, designated by the commissioner of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services;

(E) the Department of Family and Protective Services, designated by the commissioner of that agency;

(F) the Department of State Health Services, designated by the commissioner of that agency;

(G) the Texas Education Agency, designated by the commissioner of that agency;

(H) the Texas Youth Commission, designated by the executive commissioner of that agency;

(I) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, designated by the executive director of that agency; and

(J) the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments, designated by the director of that office; and

(2) eight nonvoting members who are:

(A) a representative of a local mental health authority or a local mental retardation authority, appointed by the governor;

(B) two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(C) two senators, appointed by the lieutenant governor; and
(D) three parents or consumer advocates, one each
appointed by the commission, the Texas Education Agency, and the
Texas Youth Commission.

(b) The members of the task force appointed under Subsection
(a)(2)(D) may serve a five-year term or may elect to serve for a
shorter period.

Sec. 115.008. MEETINGS. (a) The task force shall meet at
least once each quarter.

(b) The task force shall provide an opportunity for
statewide public participation in at least two meetings in each
calendar year.

(c) All meetings of the task force shall be conducted in
accordance with Chapter 551, Government Code.

Sec. 115.009. INTERAGENCY COORDINATOR; STAFF. (a) The
governor shall appoint an interagency coordinator from the
commission as the presiding officer of the task force.

(b) The interagency coordinator shall hire a full-time
director and administrative assistant to support the duties and
functions of the task force.

Sec. 115.010. TASK FORCE DIRECTOR. The task force director
hired by the interagency coordinator under Section 115.009 shall:

(1) prepare on behalf of the task force the plan and
reports required under this chapter;

(2) work with each task force representative to
schedule meetings and deadlines relevant to the representative’s
agency; and

(3) work with the interagency coordinator to assign
subcommittee leadership positions under Section 115.011.

Sec. 115.011. SUBCOMMITTEES. (a) The interagency coordinator, assisted by the task force director, shall establish subcommittees to address:

(1) early childhood detection and intervention;

(2) education;

(3) health care;

(4) transitioning youth;

(5) crisis prevention and intervention;

(6) juvenile justice;

(7) long-term, community-based services and supports;

and

(8) mental health.

(b) Each subcommittee shall include at least one task force member to serve as chair. Consistent with the purpose of each subcommittee, members shall consult with relevant subject matter experts, relevant advocacy organizations, staff from related agencies, and parents or consumers who have used related services.

(c) Each subcommittee shall report the subcommittee's findings and related recommendations at a task force meeting at least once each year. On a biennial basis, the subcommittee shall provide a written report with findings and recommendations not less than two months before the scheduled release of the task force report under this chapter.

Sec. 115.012. SUNSET PROVISION. The Interagency Task Force for Children With Special Needs is subject to Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence...
as provided by that chapter, the task force is abolished and this
chapter expires September 1, 2015.

SECTION 3. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
date of this Act:

(1) the governor shall appoint the interagency
coordinator of the Interagency Task Force for Children with Special
Needs as required by Section 115.009, Health and Safety Code, as
added by this Act; and

(2) the lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
representatives, and executive commissioner, commissioner,
executive director, or director of each entity listed under Section
115.007, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, shall appoint
the members of the Interagency Task Force for Children with Special
Needs established by Chapter 115, Health and Safety Code, as added
by this Act.

(b) The Interagency Task Force for Children with Special
Needs shall hold an organizational meeting not later than September
30, 2009.

(c) The interagency coordinator shall appoint the
subcommittees created under Section 115.011, Health and Safety
Code, as added by this Act, not later than December 1, 2009.

(d) The plan required under Chapter 115, Health and Safety
Code, as added by this Act, must be submitted to the 82nd
Legislature not later than September 1, 2011.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.
H.B. No. 2196

I certify that H.B. No. 2196 was passed by the House on April 9, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2196 on May 20, 2009, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2196 on May 28, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House
H.B. No. 2196

I certify that H.B. No. 2196 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 13, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2196 on May 30, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

________________________________________
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: ___________________________

Date

_____________________________________
Governor